CLAIMS

We claim:

5   1.   A method comprising:

    a)   providing:

        i)   a member,

        ii)   at least one higher education account, and

        iii)   at least one merchant offering a rebate;

10   b)   calculating said rebate on purchases made by said member from said at least one merchant;

    c)   crediting said at least one higher education account.

2.   The method of Claim 1, wherein said calculating step is performed by a processor

15 configured to calculate said rebate.

3.   The method of Claim 2, wherein said processor is located at a rebate network manager.

20 4.   The method of Claim 2, wherein said at least one higher education account is stored in a computer memory area and said processor is connected to said higher education account via a computer network.

5.   The method of Claim 1, wherein said crediting step is performed by a processor

25 configured to credit said at least one higher education account.

6.   The method of Claim 1, wherein said higher education accounts are selected from the group consisting of a student loan payment account, an educational IRA, a college fund savings account, and a college charitable contribution account.

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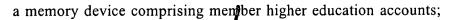
7. The method of Claim 1, further comprising step

    d)   managing said at least one higher education account.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein said crediting step further comprises crediting said higher education account with an amount equal to or less than said rebate.

9. The method of Claim 8, wherein said rebate is from 1-30% of said purchases.

10. The method of Claim 1, further comprising providing a rebate network manager, wherein said rebate network manager tracks said purchases and said rebates.

11. The method of Claim 11, wherein said rebate network manager debits said merchant and credits said higher education account.

12. The method of Claim 1, wherein said purchases are made via a credit card.

13. The method of Claim 1, wherein said purchases are made on-line.

14. The method of Claim 1, wherein said purchases are made on-site.

15. The method of Claim 1, further comprising providing a tracking entity, wherein said tracking entity tracks said purchases and said rebates.

16. The method of Claim 1, further comprising providing a registration organization, wherein said registration receives a portion of said rebate.

17. A method comprising:

    a)   providing:

        i)   a member,

        ii)   at least one higher education account,

iii)   at least one merchant,

iv)   a computer network,

v)   a rebate network manager, and

vi)   a processor;

b)   via said processor, calculating a rebate on purchases made by said member from said at least one merchant and debiting said at least one merchant and crediting said at least one higher education account, wherein said purchases are tracked by said rebate network manager and said processor and said rebate network manager are connected via said computer network.

18.   The method of Claim 17, wherein said higher education accounts are selected from the group consisting of a student loan payment account, an educational IRA, a college fund savings account, and a college charitable contribution account.

19.   The method of Claim 17, wherein said higher education account is a student loan payment account.

20.   The method of Claim 19, further comprising step

d)   transferring funds from said student loan payment account to a student loan provider via said computer network.

21.   The method of Claim 17, wherein said higher education account is an educational IRA

22.   The method of Claim 17, wherein said higher education account is a college fund savings account.

23.   The method of Claim 17, wherein said higher education account is a college charitable contribution account.

24.   A system comprising:

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a memory device comprising member higher education accounts;

a processor configured to calculate a rebate on purchases and to credit said member higher education accounts with proceeds from said rebate, wherein said memory device and said processor are connected via a computer network.

25.   The system of Claim 24, wherein said higher education accounts are selected from the group consisting of a student loan payment account, an educational IRA, a college fund savings account, and a college charitable contribution account.

26.   The system of Claim 24, wherein said rebate is from about 1% to 30% of the price of said purchases.

27.   The system of Claim 24, wherein said purchases are made via a credit card or debit card.

28.   The system of Claim 24, wherein said purchases are tracked by a rebate network manager.

29.   The system of Claim 28, wherein said rebate network manager tracks said purchases by correlating a registered credit number with said purchases.

30.   The system of Claim 24, wherein said purchases are tracked by tracking entity in communication with a rebate network manager.

31.   The system of Claim 24, wherein said rebate on purchases is provided by an on-line merchant.

32.   The system of Claim 24, wherein said rebate on purchases is provided by an on-site merchant.

33.   A system comprising:

a memory device; and

a processor in communication with said memory device, said processor configured to receive a credit from a rebate network manager and place the credit in a higher education account stored in said memory device.

34.   The system of Claim 33, wherein said higher education accounts are selected from the group consisting of a student loan payment account, an educational IRA, a college fund savings account, and a college charitable contribution account.

35.   A method comprising:

a)   providing:

i)   at least one merchant offering a rebate,

ii)   an account,

iii)   a rebate network manager, and

iv)   a tracking entity, wherein said at least one merchant is registered with said tracking entity;

b)   transferring funds corresponding to said rebate from said at least one merchant to said account;

c)   debiting said account, wherein said debiting is performed by said rebate network manager based on a report generated by said tracking entity.

36.   The method of Claim 35, wherein said transferring step is performed by a processor configured to transfer said funds.

37   The method of Claim 36, wherein said transferring is via a computer network.

38.   The method of Claim 36, wherein said processor is located at said at least one merchant offering a rebate.

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39.   The method of Claim 35, wherein said account is located at an organization registering members.

40.   The method of Claim 35, wherein said debiting of said account by said rebate network manager is performed by a processor.

41.   The method of Claim 35, wherein said at least one merchant offering a rebate are on-line merchants.

42.   The method of Claim 35, wherein said account is an aggregation of said funds from said at least one merchant offering a rebate.

43.   A system comprising:

a memory device comprising accounts from at least one merchant offering a rebate;

a processor configured to debit said accounts, wherein said debiting is performed by a rebate network manager based on a report generated by a tracking entity.

44.   The system of Claim 43, wherein said accounts are located at an organization registering members.

45.   The system of Claim 43, wherein said debiting of said account by said rebate network manager is performed by a processor.

46.   The system of Claim 43, wherein said at least one merchant offering a rebate is an on-line merchant.

47.   The system of Claim 43, wherein said rebate is from about 1% to 30% of the price of a purchase.

48.   The system of Claim 43, wherein said purchase is tracked by said tracking entity.